

May Farm News



New Arrivals in the Farm Office

You may have noticed we have two new faces in the farm office recently.

Kellie Walters joined the practice at the beginning of April to replace Georgina as our Farm administrator. Kellie comes to us having served 10 years at Sky, specialising in advanced technical customer services. Prior to this Kellie has a background working in farming for many years. Kellie will be one of the main points of contact for you, as Georgina will be joining the small animal team on a full time basis.

Thomas Slee has joined the office as our first Admin Apprentice. Thomas is enjoying the variety of tasks that the office team undertakes. Thomas is a local boy and is currently learning Judo coaching in his spare time.



Booking Calls through the Farm Office

Please can we remind all our clients, that if you need to arrange a visit by the vet either for a sick cow or routine visit, please call the office directly on: 01749 341761. The support team are here to manage all bookings and can make sure that your requests are promptly dealt with. They can also arrange for a vet to call you back if you require some advice over the phone.

The directors are always available for a chat and can be contacted on:

Paddy Gordon: 07967 364277—Sotirios Karvountzis: 07970 943861—Michael Head: 07841 485983



Spring Turn Out

We are finally seeing some warmer weather and many of you will be starting to turn your cows out. Spring is often a challenging time, with weather and grazing conditions being unpredictable. At the practice we often notice an increase in the number of calls at this time of year to cows with suspect Left Displaced Abomasums (LDAs). Turn out poses a high risk period for LDAs as the grass often has inadequate long fibre and a very low dry matter content.

Buffer feeding is important to balance the high rumen degradable protein in fresh grass and to maintain dry matter intakes. It is also important to feed an appropriate mineral supplement to prevent grass staggers, particularly if the weather is inclement.

If calves have received Huskvac, they should not be turned out until two weeks after the second dose. It is also important not to administer any wormer until this time.

Dates for your diary:

DIY AI Course 6th—9th June

Save the date: Farm Walk Wednesday 29th June

If you wish to attend any events or courses please contact Thomas by calling the office or email: training@sheptonvet.com



Velactis

Ceva Animal Health have launched an innovative product that facilitates the dry-off process. Velactis is the first and unique dry-off facilitator that improves management, udder health and welfare of dairy cows. This product helps the cow at drying off by significantly reducing milk production. It does this by blocking prolactin, one of the hormones involved in milk production. Modern cows are producing much more milk than 30 years ago and this makes drying off problematic.

With Velactis, cows can be milked right up to the point of dry-off without the hassle of having to dry them off gradually by changing their diet or having to do group changes. Abrupt dry-off with Velactis as opposed to gradual dry-off means more milk in the tank in those last few days of milking and can reduce mastitis and cell count risk, while improving cow comfort.

Key Outcomes are the reduction of :

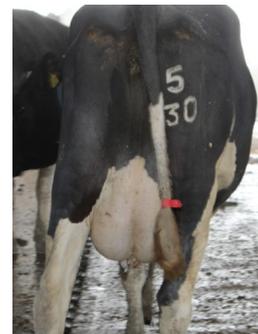
- 50% in udder engorgement
- 60% in udder pressure
- 81% milk leakage (down to 2%)
- 21% in new IMIs
- 86% in udder pain

Plus increase of 2hrs 21 mins in lying time for 4 days after dry off.

For more details, speak to your routine vet.



Before



After

Vet Tech Support on Farm

Don't forget that we now have Clare, our Vet Tech to support you with a number of jobs on farm. Clare can assist with: disbudding, calf vaccinations, blood tests and mobility scoring. Please contact the practice to discuss your requirements. Keep on top of calf disbuds and book Clare while you are busy with field work.

Problematic Calving

This week we were contacted by a farmer with a cow that had difficulty calving. The farmer had identified that the intestines of the calf had come out of the cow and he could feel that the calf was deformed.

Based on the information provided over the phone we diagnosed *Schistosomus reflexus* which is a birth defect resulting in the malformation of the entire body.

Anna and Bibby went to assist, as these calvings can often be problematic and can result in a caesarean. The cow had passed the calves' intestine, however, on palpation the calf was present in the birth canal, but only a big ball of bone could be felt.



Schistosomus reflexus is probably one of the most common foetal deformities in cattle. Cases of *Schistosomus reflexus* occur very early in embryological development. The abnormality is associated with severe developmental anomalies of the spinal column and consequent failure of abdominal wall to close. The spine is bent so the head and tail curve towards each other and the foetal viscera are free floating within the membranes.

As was the case with this cow, the condition usually causes dystocia (difficulty calving). We were able to remove the calf via caesarean section. Currently the cause of this condition is unknown, if you suspect a similar problem while calving please call a vet for advice. A prompt phone call for advice meant we attended the cow before other complications could develop and resulted in a successful outcome.